

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1044
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSNAVEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5367

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, GR, TU
SUBJ: AEGEAN DISPUTE: FURTHER ON JUNE 1-3 MEETINGS IN PARIS

REF: ATHENS 5307 (PASEP)

1. AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER JUNE 7, MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS TOOK DCM ASIDE FOR DISCUSSION OF HIS
TALKS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF JUNE 1-3 IN PARIS WITH TURKISH AMBASSA-
DOR BILGE. TZOUNIS SAID IT HAD FINALLY BECOME CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT
TURKS HAD IN MIND WHEN THEY TALKED ABOUT "JOINT VENTURES" TO
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EXPLOIT MINERAL RESOURCES OF CONTINENTAL SHELF. DURING PREVIOUS
MEETINGS BILGE HAD PARRIED QUESTION WHETHER TURKS WERE REALLY
ADVOCATING CONDOMINIUM OF AEGEAN UNDER GUISE OF JOINT VENTURE, BUT
DURING JUNE 1 SESSION IN PARIS HE HAD OPENLY STATED THAT GOT
WANTS ONE OF TWO THINGS, (A) CONDOMINIUM AND JOINT EXPLOITATION
THROUGHOUT WHOLE AEGEAN, OR (B) EXCLUSIVE EXPLOITATION BY EACH
COUNTRY IN EQUALLY-DIVIDED AEGEAN. TZOUNIS HAD REPLIED THAT CONDO-

MINIUM OR ANY OTHER SCHEME WHICH DIMINISHED GREEK SOVEREIGNTY OVER ISLANDS WAS ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE TO GOG. HE HAD COUNTERED THAT FIRST STEP IN SOLVING AEGEAN DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE AGREEMENT ON DEMARCATION OF SHELF, AFTER WHICH JOINT VENTURES TO EXPLOIT RESOURCES COULD BE DISCUSSED.

2. DURING SECOND SESSION TZOUNIS HAD OFFERED TURKS "NEW AND GENEROUS" PROPOSAL WHICH HE SAID WOULD LEAD TO STRONG CRITICISM OF GOG WITHIN GREECE IF IT BECAME KNOWN. IN DEMARCATING AEGEAN, GOG WOULD BE WILLING TO USE NORTH SEA PRECEDENT WHERE GERMANY WAS GIVEN CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTS IN AN AREA LARGER THAN IT WAS ENTITLED TO BY LENGTH OF ITS COASTLINE, BUT THIS COULD BE DONE ONLY AFTER GREECE AND TURKEY HAD AGREED ON CRITERIA FOR SETTING MARITIME BOUNDARIES.

3. IN REPLY TO BILGE'S QUESTION ABOUT WHAT AREAS OF AEGEAN GOG WOULD APPLY THIS PRINCIPLE TO, TZOUNIS SAID HE WAS NOT EMPOWERED TO DISCUSS MATTER IN MORE DETAIL. BILGE AGREED TO PASS PROPOSAL TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND THOUGHT MATTER WOULD BE WORTH DISCUSSING IN SUBSEQUENT TALKS.

4. TZOUNIS TOLD DCM THAT GOG HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT PARTS OF AEGEAN GOG MIGHT BE WILLING TO TREAT IN THIS MANNER BUT INDICATED AREA BETWEEN LESVOS AND CHIOS AND BETWEEN CHIOS AND SAMOS LEADING TO OPEN SEA MIGHT BE POSSIBILITIES. GOG WOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY FORMULA WHICH HAD EFFECT OF ENCLAVING ISLANDS CLOSE TO TURKEY BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE ANOTHER STEP IN DIMINISHING GREEK SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEM--FIRST SUCH STEP HAD BEEN PROHIBITION AGAINST ARMING THE ISLANDS--AND GREEKS FEARED TURKS WERE TRYING TO CHIP AWAY AT GREEK CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVEREIGNTY WITH ULTIMATE AIM OF TAKING OVER ISLANDS THEMSELVES.

5. TZOUNIS SAID HE WAS DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT SURPRISED THAT PARIS TALKS HAD NOT RESULTED IN MUCH PROGRESS BUT HOPED TURKS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO REALLY NEGOTIATE AFTER NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED. HE THOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF WHAT TURKS MEANT BY JOINT VENTURES WAS USEFUL AND HE WANTED US TO KNOW ABOUT IT AND ABOUT GOG OFFER TO GIVE TURKS ADDITIONAL SHELF RIGHTS IF CRITERIA CAN BE AGREED UPON. KUBISCH

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